

# Establishment and Maintenance of a Coral Nursery

A cooperative project involving five resource stakeholder constituencies: science/academia, resource management, conservation, recreational diving, and federal agency partners.



## Project Goals:

- Community-based conservation & restoration of recreationally and commercially important marine habitat
- Creation of a cadre of dedicated community-based volunteers who are committed to, and knowledgeable about, habitat restoration
- Development of coral relocation, reattachment, and nursery techniques available for other areas



# Project Members / Resource Stakeholders:

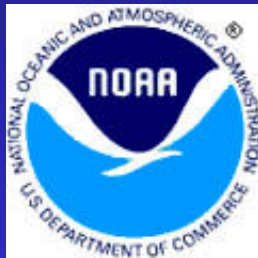
- *Science/Academia:* NCRI, NSU OC
- *Local government regulatory and management agency:* Broward County DPEP
- *Local user group of recreational divers:* OWF
- *State government:* Florida DEP and FMRI for permitting and liaison





## Project Funding:

- *Initial Project funding provided by:*  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
(NFWF) and their federal partner NOAA  
Fisheries Community-Based Restoration  
Program



- *Co-funding leveraged by participation from community members:*
  - BC DPEP
  - OWF
  - NSUOC/NCRI

# Project Methods:

- NCRI and BC DPEP scientist and managers have developed nursery protocols and supervise the volunteers



# Project Methods:

- Monthly surveys conducted to identify and collect loose corals (corals of opportunity)



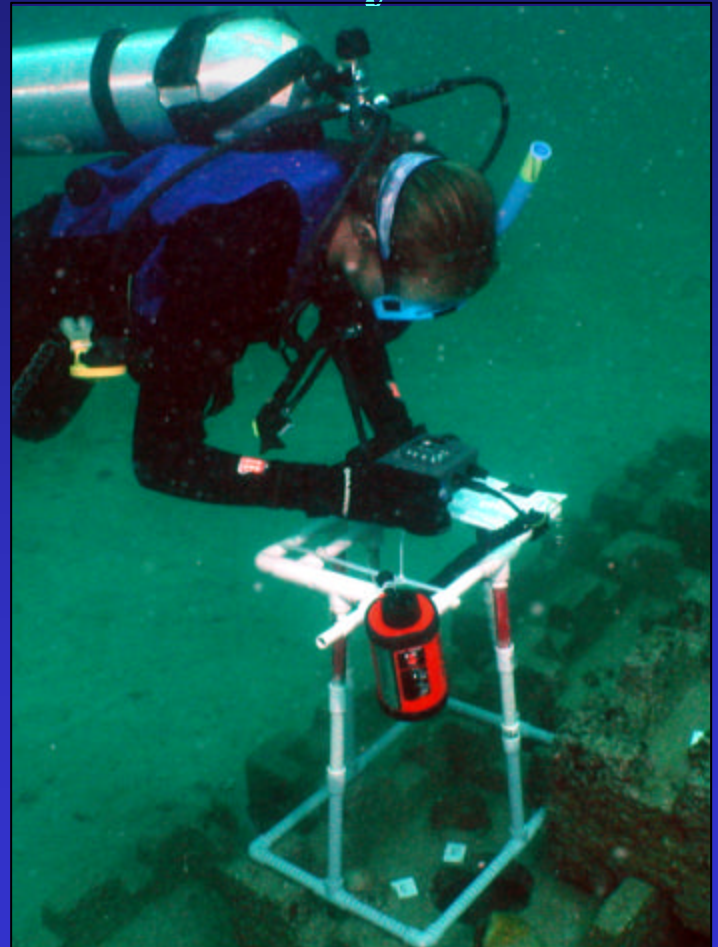


# Project Methods:



- Colonies are monitored for stability and growth (Digital images are taken of each transplanted coral)

- Corals of opportunity are relocated and reattached to the nursery area



## **Project Results:**

- **Nearly 300 stony and soft corals have been rescued and reattached**
- **> 90% are stable and living**
- **Species and size class specific growth data are being analyzed**
- **Long-term: use the stabilized and healthy corals from this nursery as a living resource for future restoration of essential fish habitat**



## **Project Results:**

- **Nearly 50 OWF members contributed 508 hours to the Project.**
- **6 educational seminars have been given to OWF and other community members.**
- **Information has been disseminated at international scientific conferences.**
- **Public awareness for increased protection of reef resources was highlighted by press coverage of the Project.**



# Case Study of Stakeholder Involvement

We have presented this community-based project as an illustration that the Task Force might use as appropriate to expand stakeholder involvement and equity (academia, management, user, conservation) in the important work of coral reef science and conservation and of the Task Force.